

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT PASS DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

LONDON FOR MR. SHAPIRO, U.S. TREASURY DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM E.)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY SIMON

REF: TREASURY 242053Z NOV 76 (NOT SENT TO LONDON)

1. REFTEL STATED SECRETARY SIMON WISHED TO GIVE HALF-HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE AT HOTEL SOVIETSKAYA AT 1530 HOURS NOVEMBER 30. IT WAS ALSO STATED THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN DECIDED WHETHER IT WOULD BE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE. EMBASSY ASSUMES FROM SENSE OF MESSAGE THAT SUBJECT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH SOVIET EMBASSY, WASHINGTON BUT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (MFT) HERE HAS BETRAYED NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY PREVIOUS DISCUSSION AND HAS DECLINED TO MEET EMBASSY PRESS ATTACHE UNTIL NOVEMBER 29 TO DISCUSS DETAILS.

2. ON NOVEMBER 26 U.S.- USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL CO-CHAIRMAN HAROLD SCOTT AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT RICHARD O'BRIEN CALLED ON CHARGE AND E/C COUNSELOR FOR REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR COUNCIL SESSION. THE NOVEMBER 30 PRESS CONFERENCE WAS AMONG ITEMS DISCUSSED. SCOTT COMMENTED THAT COUNCIL WOULD PREFER A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE. HE ADDED THAT STATE BANK CHAIRMAN ALKHIMOV WOULD BE BETTER PARTNER IN JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE THAN WOULD MINISTER OF

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FOREIGN TRADE PATOLICHEV.

3. THIS MORNING O'BRIEN PHONED E/C COUNSELOR TO STATE THAT HE AND SCOTT HAD MET WITH ALKHIMOV LATE ON NOVEMBER 26. ALKHIMOV HAD "AGREED" TO HOLD JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH SECRETARY SIMON ON NOVEMBER 30 AT 1030 HOURS IN U.S.- USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL OFFICE IN MOSCOW. O'BRIEN ADDED, BY WAY OF APOLOGY, THAT HE RECOGNIZED THIS COULD BE COMPLICATION BUT HOPED THAT WE COULD CONFIRM ARRANGEMENTS. E/C COUNSELOR SAID THAT UNTIL ADVISED TO CONTRARY HE WAS PROCEEDING ON ASSUMPTION OF PRESS CONFERENCE, WHETHER SINGLE OR JOINT, ALONG LINES OF REFTEL AND COULD NOT CONFIRM ANY OTHER PLANS. COUNSELOR ALSO NOTED THAT SECRETARY MIGHT WELL HAVE CONFLICTING OBLIGATION AT 1030 ON NOVEMBER 30 (FYI: WE ASSUME THAT IF MEETING WITH GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV IS HELD, IT WOULD BE TUESDAY MORNING. END FYI.)

4. O'BRIEN ALSO SAID SCOTT HAD CONVEYED TO ALKHIMOV THE SECRETARY'S WISH TO MEET WITH HIM. ALKHIMOV HAD AGREED TO A MEETING AT 1600 ON NOVEMBER 30 AT THE SOVIETSKAYA. COUNSELOR BASED RESPONSE ON TREASURY TELEGRAM 132113Z NOV 76 (NOT SENT LONDON) THAT SECRETARY HAD SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED ONLY TWO MEETINGS WITH SOVIET OFFICIALS. HE THOUGHT PERSONALLY THAT SECRETARY WOULD BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH ALKHIMOV IF SCHEDULE MADE THIS POSSIBLE. (FYI, SUCH A MEETING COULD FOLLOW A HALF-HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE AT SOVIETSKAYA ON NOVEMBER 30, ASSUMING THERE ARE NO OTHER CONFLICTS).

5. PUBLIC AFFAIRS COUNSELOR AND EMBASSY PRESS ATTACHE WILL BE MEETING U.S.- USSR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNSEL PUBLIC RELATIONS REPRESENTATIVE FORRESTER LATER THIS MORNING AND WILL ALSO TAKE POSITION WE CANNOT PRESENTLY CONFIRM A NOVEMBER 30 JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH ALKHIMOV AT 1030 IN COUNCIL BUILDING.

6. REQUEST YOU PROVIDE US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SECRETARY SIMON'S WISHES WITH RESPECT TO A PRESS CONFERENCE. SPECIFICALLY, WOULD HE WISH TO HOLD IT ALONE OR JOINTLY? IF JOINTLY, WOULD HE PREFER MINISTER PATOLICHEV OR STATE BANK DIRECTOR ALKHIMOV? DOES TREASURY PARTY HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON WASHINGTON DISCUSSION OF PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD HELP EMBASSY IN DEALING WITH MFT, STATE BANK AND TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL ON THIS ISSUE? WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER WE SHOULD AGREE ON SECRETARY'S BEHALF TO 1600 MEETING AT SOVIETSKAYA ON NOVEMBER 30 WITH ALKHIMOV.
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ADVISE.

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